

# WHIG CREED.

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CARROLLTON, SATURDAY, JAN. 3, 1846.

Our Legislature meets on Monday next, and *mirabile visu!* what a concourse in the main, it will be! It was charged upon a wise cue of the last Legislature, that he moved "that Mississippi declare war forthwith against Mexico." May we not look out for a similar effort with reference to England! The self-styled "anti-Britishers" in the Legislature, will doubtless, some of them, think it incumbent upon Mississippi to take that step. It will be a fine plan to get some of the money paid to them, for manufactures. As the democracy is progressive, will not progression in repudiation lead to this!

But, we hope they will leave the discussion of national affairs to bodies, where it more appropriately belongs, and set themselves to work in bettering the condition of things at home. Let them take up the subject of common schools, and devise some feasible plan of educating the poor. Let them, if they will not pay the debts of the State, reduce the taxes under which we are now oppressed. Let them make proper disposition of the State lands so as to benefit the people—pass preemption laws, &c.—graduate the price of lands, and spend the proceeds of their sale in support of the common schools, clearing out rivers, &c. As parson Howe says, or would say, if he never has—if we only had the control of things for a little while, we would show them how to regulate State matters. We'd go in for dividing the funds, if no other way could be found to keep them from spoiling, or going the way Swartwout went.

We issued no paper last week—it could not have been done without performing labor on Christmas day, which no Christian would require even from the Printer's Devil.

"WARS, AND RUMORS OF WARS."—It was rumored that Mr. Packenham, the British Plenipotentiary, had been recalled, because of his unwise policy in refusing Mr. Polk's offer to divide Oregon, and it is said, that Mr. Polk is confident of an "amicable adjustment" of the Oregon dispute, thinking that the British ministry will accede to his offer refused by Mr. Packenham. The first mentioned rumor has been contradicted, and the last doubtless originated with some lying letter writer from the metropolis. The published diplomatic correspondence between the plenipotentiaries of the "high contending parties," shews that Mr. Packenham must of necessity have reflected the known opinion of his government, in his refusal to accept the last offer, which he did without consulting his government, for already had the British government thrice refused to accede to a proposition more consonant to their views than Mr. Polk's offer. Hence we think the rumor all a humbug.

We are mortified to discover that the delegation from Mississippi, in the Congress of the United States, do not occupy a very prominent position. From the published list of standing committees in either House, it will be seen that our Senators and Members are left out, if we except our JACOBI, who is chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, and Mr. CHALMERS, of the committee on Engrossed Bills. This we did expect. Partisan feeling and the policy of the party may make a temporary great man of such men as Colonel Roberts, Hon. General Speight, Judge Chalmers, &c., but they take their proper level at Washington. As the democracy is progressive, to what point will these men attain?

Our friend Harry of the West let down upon us heavily last week. We can't stand that, if there is a man in North Mississippi for whom we have a high regard, and towards whom we have ever felt the warmest friendship, it is friend Bacon. If there is one whose friendship and esteem we would not lose, it is friend Bacon. If there is a representative extant of that class of men, who have passed from the earth, the true-hearted, gallant Virginia gentleman—it is friend Bacon! and hence we deprecate our poor attempts at wit, and especially that article, got up upon a typographical error in the Harry, (which we thought innocent enough in itself,) since they have, un-*intentionally*, on our part, aroused the ire of our friend. Are we not forgiven?

PROBABILITIES OF A WAR.—The friends of peace are, I fear, [says the Washington correspondent of the Charleston Mercury,] catching at straws. There is no ground for the rumor of the recall of Mr. Packenham, no reason for the supposing that Great Britain will offer new propositions, and certainly there is nothing in the temper of Congress, of the people, or of the Administration, that justifies the belief that the U. States will recede from their present position as to Oregon.

On our first page we give a chapter from "Capt'n' Nuggs' Adventures," showing how he 'did' the speculators; also the "Mocking Bird," by Geo. D. Prentice; an article on the use of cisterns on plantations, &c.

The Southern Reformer, and Southron, will each publish a tri-weekly paper during the session of the Legislature. Will the Southron send us their tri-weekly?

The National Intelligencer, a paper to which all will concede great judgment and shrewdness, thinks, from evidence which it deems satisfactory, "that war, as a means of 'adjusting' the difficulty with England, is not within any rational calculation of probabilities." So may it be.

## CONGRESSIONAL SYNOPSIS.

The proceedings of the first few days of the meeting of Congress, have but little of importance or interest in them. Davis, of Indiana, is elected Speaker of the House; RICHMOND & HATAS ("organ-grinders.") Printers for the House. An effort was made to revive the 21st rule, prohibiting the reception of Abolition petitions—which failed. A bill for the final reception of Texas into the Union, passed the House with but little opposition. The arrangement of the standing Committees in the House, indicate a "warm support" of the President's message in that body.

In the Senate, the proceedings have been more interesting. Besides evincing a disposition to give more attention to the obvious wants of the South and West, than has heretofore been given, having taken suitable initiatory steps towards the defence of our exposed borders and coast, resolutions were introduced by General Cass, calling upon the respective departments of the Government, for information as to the present condition of the army and navy, and militia of the country, and as to what would be requisite to place us in a condition to give John Bull a proper reception, should he become "wolfish" about the Oregon. These resolutions gave rise to an interesting and somewhat important discussion. General Cass accompanied their introduction with a genuine war-talk; he thought war more than probable, *inevitable*, unless England should recede from her position, since the diplomacy about Oregon was at an end, as he conceived, and the question now in the hands of those who would not recede on the part of this Government, &c. He was patriotic, and seemed to be fired at the prospect of war.

Mr. MANGUM followed—deprecating the introduction of the resolutions, &c. PETTICOT ALLEN was decidedly for fight, and believed in bullying John Bull. ARCHER, CRITTENDEN, WEBSTER, and others partook in the debate.

CALHOUN is Chairman of the Committee on Finance; Mr. ALLEN, of the Committee on Foreign Relations, both which appointments it is thought, in some degree indicate, the inclination of the Senate upon the important questions which will appropriately belong to those committees. Mr. CALHOUN's anti-Tariff views, and ALLEN's war notions, it is said, augur destruction to the Tariff, and war! war!

A. C. BAINE has taken charge of the editorial department of the SOUTHERN. Mr. Baine is so well known in this section of the country, we need say nothing descriptive of him. He is universally regarded as a man of fine intellect, and of a peculiar 'sledge-hammer power' in argument. The SOUTHERN will flourish in his hands.

Messrs. BENTON, BACOT, and HAYWOOD, have committed the crime of voting upon two questions with the rascally Whigs. First, they voted for Mr. DICKENS for Secretary of the Senate, an old tried and faithful officer, and against the caucus nominee of the party, a Mr. STANLEY, of Georgia, whom the people in Ga. had repudiated, and who "in consequence deserves reward from the government." Secondly, they voted against the proposition to give the President of the Senate the appointment of the standing Committees. For this, already are they abused by reckless democratic presses, and charged with sliding towards the Whigs. Such men as BENTON we like to see sliding towards the Whigs—a man who has more learning than five hundred such as are now abusing him, for having voted for Whigs, and with Whigs.

Among the passengers who arrived in the Cambria is Professor Morse, the inventor of the electro-magnetic telegraph, who is the bearer of very important despatches from the U. S. Legations in Prussia, Belgium and England. Prof. M. has in charge the ratified treaty between Bavaria and the United States, transmitted by Henry Wheaton, U. S. Minister at Berlin; and also the proposed commercial treaty between Belgium and the United States. He has also despatches for the Department of State, and for the Postmaster General, from the U. States minister to England.

On DITS.—The mails yesterday brought a number of rumors upon various matters of public interest, which we notice as mere *on dits*, without having any means of ascertaining their authenticity.

It is said that Mr. Slidell, our Minister to Mexico, has instructions to purchase California. It is thought that in the embarrassed condition of the Mexican government this purchase may be readily effected—the only difficulty in the way of such a result being the heavy land mortgages British subjects hold upon the territory.

There is a rumor that Mr. Calhoun will be offered the State Department by Mr. Polk. It is further said that Mr. Buchanan will take the Treasury Department, and Mr. Walker the vacant seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States.

It is said that British insurance offices have inserted the war clause in their policies.

It is stated, with much confidence, that Mr. Packenham talks freely about the Oregon question, and asserts that he followed his instructions literally, in declining peremptorily Mr. Buchanan's proposition as a compromise of the claims of the United States and England to Oregon.

The locomotive carrying the President's message, traversed the distance from Camden to New Brunswick, sixty-four miles, in one hour and thirty-five minutes, running time, and one hour and forty-five minutes, including stops.

The contingent expenses of the House of Representatives of Congress, from January to December the 1st, 1845, were \$145,927.18—of which there was expended for Blair & Rives for printing \$36,001, besides over \$4,000 for binding, &c.

## THE MESSAGE.

Ere this time, the first annual message of Mr. Polk, has been carefully read by all—and various are the opinions which it has given rise to, upon the probable results of the position of the President upon important questions.

Our opinion of the message, and our speculations as to the future, being of some importance, we proceed to give them to the world. The message, however, is so lengthy we will be excused for not taking it up and referring to each portion.

The Oregon question occupies a large portion of the document—and we have but one fault to find with Mr. Polk, about his course upon this subject, and that is his previous concealment of the important facts developed in his message. He has offered to divide the territory at the 49th degree. This is all we asked, and more than we expected from the President, judging from the tone of the democratic journals of the country—from the Organ—and down. They all cried "Fight." "The whole of Oregon, or none," and we were concluded from supposing, that a commendable and patriotic desire for peace and spirit of compromise, ruled in the Presidential cabinet; but it seems that Mr. Polk's "deference" for preceding administrations, has induced him to do that, which his own perverted views of true policy, would never have accomplished. So it is, he has done from what motive, we stop not now to enquire, all that we desired; and England has refused to accept the only offer, which from our view of our title to Oregon, the government of the United States can honorably make. Yet, Mr. Polk says—"It is hoped that in this enlightened age, these differences (with England) may be amicably adjusted." How "amicably-adjusted," we are not yet prepared to say—for we cannot see.

His views and recommendations on the subject of the Tariff, are contrary to what we expected and desired—but we are gratified that the question as to what his opinions upon that subject are, is now at rest—and the shameless, unscrupulous partisans, who secured his election by swearing that he was a "better tariff man than Mr. CLAY," now have the 'lie direct,' from the lips of the immaculate—and our friends from Pennsylvania—our democratic friends—our tariff democratic friends of Pennsylvania, will now discover that their iron works and their democracy, cannot stand together. Which will they choose? This shameless fraud, effected through that notorious Kane letter—double-faced, cunning, and false, fixes a stain upon the character of the man and men who perpetrated it, that will not be effaced, until they be forgotten. Mr. Polk distinctly stated in that letter that he would favor "discriminations for protection;" in his message he says, "discriminations should be made with a view to REVENUE alone." This will do.

He recommends the sub-Treasury—a scheme with the stamp of the people's disapproval upon it—that odious, *federate* scheme—so shewn to be, time and again—first recommended as a plausible humbug, that was to make (in the language of Mr. BENTON) the gold to glisten through the interstices of the purses of the farmers throughout the valley of the Mississippi. Mr. Polk ventures to shoulder this—we will see if his immense popularity can sustain this dead weight.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.—The following is a condensed view of this able report: The Postmaster General believes there will be a falling off of forty-five per cent, in the receipts of the current year, and that there will be a diminution of the means of the Department of \$1,328,997.

The saving from former rates in New England and New York in transportation the current year is \$232,732.

The Railroad service is only one-tenth of the whole, while they charge one-fifth of the whole.

Should there be a similar saving in letting the contracts in other districts, to that effected in the Northern, it will amount in 1847, '48 and '49, to \$1,005,732.

Compensation to Postmasters and Post offices during the year ending the 30th June, 1845, was \$1,409,575 18. Over 2000 Postmasters resigned on account of the new law.

The Postmaster General mentions a case of fraud on the post office where in one envelope, on which \$1 60 had been paid, there were counted 100 letters enclosed, which would have amounted to \$10.

The Postmaster General thinks the single sheet system should be restored, or reduced to a quarter of an ounce for a single letter.

The great weight of the mail is by carrying printed matter. It composes nine-tenths of the mail, yet pays only one-tenth of the expenses.

He proposes the following reform:—

5 cts each single letter under 50 miles.  
10 " " " " over 50 and under 300.  
15 " " " " over 300

This to continue till 1848, when the present rate should be restored.

He recommends the former rates of newspapers, periodicals, &c., with right to send them out of the mail. He urges a pre-payment of letters in all cases. He advises a limit to the number of exchange papers between editors. He recommends the restriction of franking privileges to the old ground.

The number of letters not called for, the first quarter under the new law, was 300,000.

Morse's Telegraph to Baltimore, with Professor Morse's salary, costs \$244, and the receipts only \$413 44.—*Delta*.

Upon the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, the New England Society of New Orleans met at the St. Charles, and our own PATRISTIS awoke, in his own way, the heart-tribute due to the occasion. We give the following beautiful extract from his speech. Speaking of the worthy sons of the Plymouth Pilgrims, he says—

"Upon the banks of every river they build temples of industry and stop the squanderings of the spendthrift of waters. They bind the naiads of the brawling stream and compel them, like the sad daughters of Danais, to pour unceasingly from the glittering urns the sparkling treasures of their crystal fountains. They drive the dayrads from their accustom'd haunts, and force them to desert each favourite grove; for upon the river creek and bay they are busy transforming the crude forest into staunch and gallant vessels. From every inlet or indenture along the rocky shore swim forth these ocean birds—born in the wild wood, fledged upon the wave. Behold how they spread their white pinions to the favouring breeze, and wing their flight to every quarter of the globe—the carrier pigeons of the world! It is upon the unstable element the sons of New England have achieved their greatest triumphs. Their adventurous prowess vex the waters of every sea. Bold and restless as the old Northern Vikings, they go forth to seek their fortunes in the mighty deep. The ocean is their pasture, and over its wide prairies they follow—the monstrous herds that feed upon its azure fields. As the hunter casts his lasso upon the wild horse, so they throw their lines upon the tumbling whale. They 'draw out Leviathan with hook.' They 'fill his skin with banded irons,' and in spite of his terrible strength they 'pull him among the merchants.' To them there are no pillars of Hercules. They seek with avidity new regions, and fear not to be 'the first that ever burst' into unknown seas. Had they been the companions, of Columbus, the great mariner would not have been urged to return, though he had sailed westward to his dying day.

Glorious New England! thou art still true to thy ancient fame and worthy of thy ancestral honors. We thy children, have assembled in this far-distant land to celebrate thy birth-day. A thousand fond associations throng upon us, roused by the spirit of the hour. On thy pleasant valleys rest the sweet dews of the morning, the gentle recollections of our early life; around thy hills and mountains cling like gathering mists the mighty memories of the Revolution, and far away in the horizon of thy past gleam, like thy own bright Northern Lights, the awful virgins of our Pilgrim sires!"

RENCONTRE.—A personal altercation occurred in the city of Vicksburg, the 22d December between GEORGE W. HANNA, of that place, and a Mr. Hoover, of Hinds county in which the former was shot, supposed mortally. Dispute originated about the purchase of a gold pencil.

The 'Union' explicitly contradicts the surmise, that any new propositions are to be offered to England, or that the negotiation is to be transferred to London.

The Alexandria [D. C.] Gazette is among those who think that such is the present complexion of the U. S. Senate, that the opinions of its members will not run counter to those of a majority of the House on the Oregon question.

The following advertisement, under the head of "Wife Wanted," is in the *Batesville News*: "Any gal what's got a bed, calico dress, coffee pot and skillet, knows how to make a hunting shirt, and knows how to nuss children, can have my service till death parts both on us."

"CAUSE YOU SQUINTS."—A youthful witness was on his examination in a court of justice. The lawyer (who, by the by, had an unfortunate obliquity of vision,) was anxious to have the boy's answers directly addressed to the judge. After a while the learned counsel said,

"Look at his honor, as I do now, and repeat your answer."

"Look as you do, sir!" answered the boy; "I can't do it, 'cause you squints."

The Chinese ladies laugh heartily at the small waists of the Americans, and the American ladies ridicule heartily the little feet of the Chinese. The one case is a complete circle of folly, and the other is folly to the *lowest extremity*.

It is rumored that the projected marriage of the Queen of Spain with the brother of the King of Portugal, was likely to lead to a visit of her Majesty Donna Maria and the King Ferdinand, to the queen of Spain at Seville.

FROM THE ARMY.—The following tells a sad story, and will be read with interest: CORPUS CHRISTI, Nov. 29th, 1845.

To the Editors of the Tropic:

GENTLEMEN—Perhaps, in the dearth of all news, foreign and domestic, a desultory letter, even from this place, will not be devoid of interest. When the 3d and 4th Infantry first landed here, 'Kinney's Rancho,' though a town of considerable importance, selling annually about a millions worth of goods to the Mexican smugglers, was as quiet and peaceable under the vigorous military sway of its martial proprietor as a village in New England. How changed the aspect now! Every new arrival of troops, pouring in from all parts of the Union, was promptly followed by an arrival of some portion of that vast horde of liquor selling harpies, which brings up the rear of an army, and is ever ready to prey upon the poor soldier. More than thirty grog-shops, constructed of frail materials, have been erected within the last few months on the outskirts of "the Rancho." All the out-laws, thieves and murderers from the United States, seem to have found homes in these temporary structures. Their savage yells and horrid oaths, and imprecations can be heard at all hours of the night. Their bacchanalian revels usually terminate in a bloody affray, in which these ruffians show their intimate acquaintance with bowie-knives and revolvers. To the philanthropist no sight can be more truly distressing than that of the bloated and sin-marked visages of these men, as they range by day through the purlieus of this modern pandemonium, concocting their hellish plans of the night. But not content with confining their murderous attacks to their own worthy fraternity, they have recently laid their ruthless hands on the soldiers. About ten days since, a soldier of the 4th Artillery was shot dead by one of these outlaws. The murderer escaped simply because no efficient measures were taken for his apprehension. Two days after a soldier of the 2d Artillery was found dead about a quarter of a mile from the encampment, with the indisputable marks of violence upon his body. No means whatever have been used to discover the fiend who perpetrated this deed. Several soldiers known to have money in their possession have been enticed into the grog-shops, then drugged with some infernal potion and robbed of their dearly bought savings, whilst in a state of stupor. A soldier left the encampment a few days since, with a hundred dollars in his pocket his hard earnings for two years and was missing for several days. He was at length found in the "Chapparel" almost entirely denuded, minus his hundred dollars, and still stupid from the effects of the drug which had been given him.

"The Northerners" have come with a vengeance, and as sudden and unexpected as welcome—He who lies down gaping for breath in the sultry night air will, in all probability, be half frozen before dawn. The thermometer has several times fallen thirty degrees in a few hours. The romantic, who dreamed of Italy and fairy land in this "delicious climate," during August and September, now hurl curses upon it through their chattering teeth. The tents, made of the most flimsy and worthless materials, do not even exclude heavy dews; of course they are little or no protection against the drenching rains. For several days every article in the tents of many companies has been thoroughly wet. A week since there were two feet water in the tents of the whole left-wing of the 3d Infantry. As a natural consequence of this wretched state of things the dysentery and catarrha fever have made sad havoc among the troops. One third of them are now on the sick list, and not one fifth of the whole encampment have escaped sickness altogether. Yet, newspapers say that "the Army of occupation continues to enjoy remarkably fine health!" There is scarcely a single officer or soldier looking well. All are now beginning to murmur at the unnecessary hardships they are required to endure; to remain month after month in wretched tents on the bleak shores of a boisterous bay, without protection from the chilling rains and piercing winds; surely this is enough, more than enough, to try the fortitude and discipline of the best troops in the world. Were they on an active campaign, with the prospect of meeting the foe, all would be gay and cheerful; but it is hard, to sit for days shivering in the wet tents, and listening to the plaintive wail of the muffled drum as some beloved comrade is carried to his last resting place. Only wood enough for cooking purposes is provided; none whatever for camp-fires. Owing to the negligence in not providing good tents, many valuable lives will be lost. AN ACTOR.

OUR ARMY IN TEXAS.—Captain Shipman, of the schooner Rosella, left Corpus Christi on the 12th inst. and reports, that heavy rains and extreme cold weather prevailed at that place when he left; and that the United States troops were suffering very much from sickness, and the want of proper quarters to protect them from the inclemency of the season. Large numbers of Mexican traders were daily arriving at Corpus Christi, from the interior; still business was reported dull.—*N. O. Com. Times*.

Four thousand passengers arrived at New York during the month of November.